

as did other peoples of the former Soviet Union, fulfilling the wishes of generations of Ukrainians.

Eight years have now passed since that dramatic time, and Ukraine and U.S.-Ukrainian relations are stronger than ever. We now have a U.S.-Ukraine Joint Commission, chaired by Vice President GORE and President Kuchma, which seeks to improve bilateral relations on a wide range of issues.

A significant part of this effort is the sister city project to help Ukrainian communities develop more effective local government. I'm proud that the City of Lowell in Massachusetts is a sister city with the Ukrainian city of Berdiansk in this worthwhile project.

I especially commend the members of the Ukrainian-American community for their constant courage and commitment in championing the cause of Ukrainian independence over the years. They never gave up this struggle, even during the darkest days of the Cold War. They can be proud of their achievements. Their efforts in recent years have made Ukraine the third largest annual recipient of U.S. assistance. I'm prouder than ever to support their impressive efforts.

I also commend the Ukrainian-American community for its ongoing work to help American high school students understand that the Great Famine of the 1930s was a man-made terror-famine, used by Stalin to suppress the Ukrainian people. Millions of Ukrainians died in this great crime against humanity.

Sadly, the twentieth century has been filled with too many of these massive crimes. We must never forget the atrocities that have been inflicted on millions of citizens in other lands, including the Ukrainian people. We must do all we can to build a better world in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE FOR MS. LINDA COLEMAN

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the exceptionally distinguished service of Ms. Linda Coleman, who is leaving Federal Service on September 30, 1999, after 30 years. She has been the mainstay within the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, United States Army for the past 20 years. It is a privilege for me to recognize the many outstanding achievements she has provided the Congress, the United States Army and our great Nation.

Linda Coleman has worked for every Member of the Congress as the Secretary of the Army's legislative liaison within the Army's House Liaison Division, Congressional Inquiry Division, and Programs Division. Initiative, caring service, and professionalism are the terms used to describe Linda Coleman. She has been instrumental in providing information and explaining the diverse programs within the United States Army. Ms. Coleman is an expert in coordinating the interface between the

Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army and Members of Congress. She is an expert at cutting through the red tape of the bureaucracy without losing sight of the fact that taking care of the soldier is the ultimate goal. I have never known of an instance in which Ms. Coleman would back away from doing the right thing for the Army, the soldier or family members, or the Congress she served.

Ms. Coleman has earned a reputation on Capitol Hill as someone who could be relied upon to respond to inquiries in a responsive, professional manner. She expanded the Army's understanding of Congress and the Army's role in the legislative process through continuous interaction with Members of Congress and the Army's leadership. Ms. Coleman established procedures to assist in informing and explaining the Army to Congress. Ms. Coleman prepared the Army's senior leaders for all of their meetings with Members of Congress. For each meeting, she prepared the Army senior leader with detailed information on the issues and the interests of the Members of Congress involved in the meetings. Ms. Coleman has been the "go to" person in Army Legislative Liaison. When Members of Congress had a really complex issue, the legislative action officers and assistants would go to her for advice.

Ms. Coleman is able to communicate effectively with both military officials and Congressional staff members and has developed superb working relationships. Her professional abilities have earned her the respect and trust which served her, the Army, and Congress so well.

Mr. President, Linda Coleman is a great credit to the Army and this great Nation. As she now departs after 30 years of Federal Service, I call upon my colleagues to recognize her great contribution to the Nation, and in particular, the Congress. I wish her well in her future endeavors.●

EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS, COMBATS RACISM AND HATRED

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to an article published in the New York Times on September 21, 1999. The article describes the efforts by the people of East Peoria, Illinois, to combat racism and hatred in the aftermath of Benjamin Smith's shooting rampage during the July 4 weekend. Mr. Smith, a former member of the so-called World Church of the Creator, targeted Jews, African-Americans, and Asian-Americans, killing two and wounding nine before shooting himself. Matthew Hale, a self-proclaimed white supremacist who established the World Church of the Creator, set up its headquarters in East Peoria.

Mr. President, it would have been easy for the citizens of East Peoria to simply move on with their lives, dismissing this incident as an aberration and passively hoping that future acts

of racial hatred would not plague their community. But the citizens of East Peoria are embracing a proactive approach to combating hatred, fostering tolerance, and celebrating diversity. Mayor Charles Dobbelaire recently announced the creation of a Human Relations Commission, which will guide East Peoria in their campaign to combat hate and teach tolerance.

While we can prosecute crimes motivated by hatred, we unfortunately cannot legislate hate out of the human heart. Each of us has a responsibility to speak out against racism and embrace our differences, rather than use them as a wedge to divide our communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the commendable efforts made by the citizens of East Peoria to combat racial hatred and promote tolerance and that an article from the New York Times be inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, September 21, 1999]

A CITY TAKES A STAND AGAINST HATE (By Jo Thomas)

EAST PEORIA, ILL.—For years, the hard-working residents of this mostly white town on the eastern bank of the Illinois River did not take seriously the white supremacist views of Matthew F. Hate, 27, the son of a retired local policeman.

They recall trying to ignore his leaflets and appearances on public-access television. When he set up the headquarters of the World Church of the Creator in his parents' home, some thought it was a joke.

But after the July 4 weekend, when Benjamin Smith, a former World Church member, went on a two-state rampage against Jews, blacks and Asian-Americans, killing two and wounding nine before shooting himself, the laughter stopped.

"We were sickened," said Dennis Triggs, 54, the City Attorney. "We had the sense that benign neglect must come to an end."

Mr. Triggs called Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty law Center, a non-profit civil rights organization, to ask what East Peoria could do.

Mr. Dees sent Mr. Triggs and Mayor Charles Dobbelaire, 59, a copy of the center's publication "Ten Ways to Fight Hate," and advised city leaders to do two things: Speak out immediately and form a broad-based coalition on race issues.

Mr. Dees also put leaders in touch with the Rev. David Ostendorf, a United Church of Christ minister in Chicago who leads the Center for a New Community, a group dedicated to fighting white supremacist ideas and organizations in the Midwest.

Mr. Ostendorf, who believes that "the only way this movement is going to be stopped is if communities stand up and say no and organize to oppose it," added a stop in East Peoria to a civil rights tour that retraced Mr. Smith's deadly trip through Illinois and Indiana.

On July 22, with members of Mr. Ostendorf's caravan and 200 local residents present, the Mayor announced that East Peoria, which has only a few dozen nonwhites in its population of 23,400 would set up a Human Relations Commission "to guide us in combating hate and teaching tolerance."

"We will not surrender the minds of our young to Matt Hale," Mr. Dobbelaire continued.

"I know that still today there are those who believe we should not attract attention